

Minutes
The City of Frederick
Mayor and Board of Aldermen
Workshop

January 22, 2014
3:00 p.m.
City Hall Board Room

Mayor Randy McClement presided. Present were Aldermen Kelly Russell, Michael O'Connor, Philip Dacey, Joshua Bokee and Donna Kuzemchak. Also present were City Attorney, Saundra Nickols and Legislative Assistant, Lauren O'Malley.

The Mayor led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Workshop:

Item 1: Katie Barkdoll presented the Fiscal Year 2014 Budget Update.

Item 2: Katie Barkdoll discussed the Fiscal Year 2015 Budget Calendar. The purpose of the discussion was to establish public hearing dates for the FY 2015 budget as the recently adopted City Charter requires the Board of Aldermen to approve the dates and times of at least 2 public meetings where the budget will be considered prior to April 1. Lauren O'Malley will work with the Budget Department and dates will be submitted for approval at a public hearing.

Item 3: Katie Barkdoll reviewed The City of Frederick's Debt and Financial Administration Policies. There were no suggested changes to the Policies.

Elected Official Comments: Alderman Dacey provided no comment.

Alderman Bokee thanked the Mayor and staff for their hard work during the recent snow storm, especially the Department of Public Works and Parks and Recreation Department. He also commended the City and County for their efforts to realize a 12-month shelter for the homeless.

Alderman Kuzemchak attended the "Sold on Frederick" informational event given by the Community Development Department and conveyed that the City has Community Development Block Grant programs which help with down payment

assistance and closing costs for first-time homebuyers. She encouraged listeners to take advantage of these programs. Alderman Kuzemchak also requested that the Mayor show the amount of staff to road lineage.

Alderman O'Connor commented on an e-mail that was received by the Aldermen at the end of last week regarding highway user revenue. He added that he attended the Maryland Municipal League Legislative Committee Meeting, and highway user revenue topic was re-delivered and based on the Governor's budget, municipalities should see an initial increase of 3.5% in highway user revenue and there is also an additional \$16 million in the Department of Transportation budget. Alderman O'Connor stated that based on a preliminary estimation done by him and Alderman Russell, it appears that the City should receive an increase of approximately \$52,325 in FY 2015. With that being said he stated that the approximately \$23 million earmarked for highway user revenue is still only about half of what it was in 2008 at its peak. He commented that the revenues are trending in the right direction, and remarked on the importance of continuing to work toward full restoration.

Alderman Russell thanked City staff for being out there in frigid temps and less than ideal conditions and conveyed her appreciation for all that they do. She also encouraged citizens who are recipients of good service to please thank the workers responsible if given the opportunity.

Mayor McClement conveyed his appreciation for the excellent work by employees throughout the snow storm. He commented on the importance of communication and understanding and commended Zack Kershner, Director of Public Works for getting through his first snowstorm. He said that Mr. Kershner spent the first half of the storm riding with him around town and the last half in a full-size plow with Mike Winpiger, Street Maintenance Superintendent. The Mayor said that he also had the opportunity to take a reporter from the Frederick News Post around town in an effort to convey to the public what really goes into snow removal, and thanked the Post for their report. The Mayor also stated that Lance Duvall from the City's Audio Visual Department rode in a plow while videotaping in the hopes of educating the public on the process and to give them first hand access. He said that the footage can be found on the City's website. Mayor McClement said that he addressed the majority of concerns that came through his office and citizens were generally understandable about the answer. Finally, the Mayor addressed the issue of parking decks and snow and stated, that it is not a policy that when a snow emergency is called, parking decks are open. He stated that the decks had to be opened during the blizzard and perhaps twice since as it became necessary to clear the streets per the experts operating the plows. He also reminded residents and business owners that it is a code violation to dump snow in the streets, and it causes a severe hindrance on the plows.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:10 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lauren O'Malley
Legislative Assistant